

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Shuji MURATA, et al. : GROUP ART UNIT: To be assigned
SERIAL NO: 10/595,759 :
FILED: MAY 10, 2006 : EXAMINER: To be assigned
FOR: WEIGHING DEVICE :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant wishes to disclose the following information:

Attached is a Written Opinion of the International Search Authority, accompanied by an English translation thereof. The references cited in the Written Opinion are listed on the previously filed PTO/SB/08a.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application. Thus, *no fee is believed to be due for this Information Disclosure Statement*. However, the commissioner is authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-2042.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven Roberts/

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Dated: July 18, 2006
SR/jm

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
International application No. PCT/JP2004/014937

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under PCT Rule 43*bis*.1 (a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; and citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty(N)	Claims <u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-10</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations

Citation 1: JP 4-130230 A (Anritsu Corporation) 1992. 05. 01, Fig. 4 (family: none)

Citation 2: JP 3-292207 A (Bridgestone Corporation) 1991. 12. 24, Fig. 3 (family: none)

Explanation: As the applicant of the present application admits in the specification of the present application, an optical non-contact method for supplying power to a device for weighing an object while moving is described in the above described citation 1. In the prior-art search conducted by an examiner of the Japan Patent Office, an electromagnetic guidance method has not been found as a non-contact method for supplying power to the movable weighing device. However, as shown in the above described citation 2, an electromagnetic guidance method has been conventionally used as a non-contact method for supplying power to a device for weighing an object while moving before the filing of the present application. Therefore, it must be said that applying the electromagnetic guidance power supply described in the above described citation 2 to the invention in accordance with the above described citation 1 instead of the optical power supply is a matter of design choice that can be performed by those skilled in the art. As a result, the invention in accordance with claim 1 of the present application lacks inventive step.

In addition, definite matters in the dependent claims 2 to 10 also merely adopt the conventional art that has been used before the filling of the present application. Because of this, it must be said that they are still matters of design choice that can be performed by those skilled in the art. As a result, the inventions in accordance with claims 2 to 10 of the present application also lack inventive step.

Form PCT/ISA/237 (Box No. V) (January 2004)